

Coins

Boos for price boost, mint 'makes its mark'

By Roger Boye

A COIN newspaper has editorially criticized the Bureau of the Mint for boosting the price of 1979 uncirculated coin sets.

Each 1979 set ordered before the Oct. 31 deadline costs \$8 — a dollar more than last year's sets and \$2 more than 1976 sets.

Numismatic News contends that the price hike could be avoided if "convoluted-thinking bureaucrats" were to use a less expensive method of mailing sets. At present, sets are sent by registered first-class mail.

In spite of the price hike, the government should receive orders for more than two million sets this year, partly because the 1979 sets will be the first to include new Anthony dollars from the Philadelphia and Denver mints. In addition, the sets contain an uncirculated half-dollar, quarter, dime, nickel, and one-cent piece from both mints.

To order, send a check or money order to Bureau of the Mint, 55 Mint St., San Francisco, Cal. 94175. A maximum of five sets may be ordered per person, and the mint promises that sets will be mailed by Dec. 31.

The cutoff date for orders will come before Oct. 31 if orders exceed the mint's production capacity.

IN AN ATTEMPT to placate collectors, Bureau of the Mint executives have decided to leave the "D" mint mark on all one-cent coins made in Denver in 1980.

Officials had said in July that the mint mark would be taken off Denver pennies to get more coins to circulate. But many collectors complained about that announcement.

An earlier decision to place a "P" mint mark on all 1980 Philadelphia-produced coins, except the cent, was not changed. Other than nickels made from 1942 to 1945, and Anthony dollars minted this year, United States coins manufactured in Philadelphia have not carried mint marks.

All coins made in Denver this year, including the cent, have a "D" mint mark.

THE ANNUAL show of the Indian Hill Coin Club begins at 10 a.m. today at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Lake Villa. Coin dealers will be on hand to buy and sell numismatic items, and door prizes will be given every hour until 6 p.m.